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SUBJ: PORTUGUESE JOURNALISTS UNION ELECTIONS

REF: LISBON 4464

SUMMARY: PORTUGUESE JOURNALISTS OPENED PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON
UPCOMING ELECTIONS FOR AN ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE TO HEAD
THEIR UNION IN AUG. 7 PRESS AND UNION MEETINGS. NEWSPAPERS HAVE
BEGUN TO POLARIZE IN SUPPORT OF CANDIDATES ON LIST A (PCP-
ORIENTED) OR LIST B (SOCILIST-ORIENTED) FOR AUG. 12 ELECTIONS
SCHEDULED FOR JOURNALISTS' UNION HEADQUARTERS (CASA DA IMPRENSA).
LIST B CANDIDATES ISSUED COMMUNIQUE PROPOSING A RE-OPENING OF
DEBATE ON JOURNALISTS' UNION MEMBERSHIP IN INTERSINDICAL;
DENOUNCING ALL SOURCES OF CENSORSHIP; CRITICIZING MASS
COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER JESUINO'S PROPOSED PRESS LAW (REFTEL).

1. TWO LISTS OF CANDIDATES UNDER CONSIDERATION ARE:
LIST A, PREDOMINANTLY MADE UP OF COMMUNIST-INFLUENCED
JOURNALISTS AND LED BY ADELINO CARDOSO OF INDEPENDENT LEFTIST
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DIARIO POPULAR AND LIT B, MAINLY COMPOSED OF SOCIALIST AND

INDEPENDENT LEFTIST JOURNALISTS AND HEADED BY MARIO CONTUMELIAS OF DIARIO DE NOTICIAS (DN). COMMUNIST-DOMINATED SEculo, DIARIO DE LISBOA (DL) AND COMMUNIST-INFLUENCED DIARIO DE NOTICIAS, USING UNSIGNED EDITORIALS, PUBLISHED MOST ARTICLES SUPPORTING LIST A PLATFORM (DEFINED AS BEING IN FAVOR OF INFORMATION IN DEFENSE OF POPULAR MASSES AND WORKERS AND AGAINST PARTISAN MANIPULATION OF NEWS) AND CRITICIZING LIST B PLATFORM (DEFINED AS BEING IN FAVOR OF A JOURNALISM WHICH SERVES THE PEOPLE). DIARIO POPULAR (DP), INDEPENDENT LEFTIST CAPITAL, AND WORKER-CONTROLLED REPUBLICA HAVE PROVIDED EQUAL SPACE AND STRAIGHTFORWARD COVERAGE TO BOTH PLATFORMS.

2. AT AUG. 6 MEETING IN SUPPORT OF LIST B CANDIDATES, JOURNALISTS ISSUED COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED (AUG. 7) LISBON PRESS WHICH:

- DENOUNCED ANY FORM OF CENSORSHIP COMING FROM AFM 5TH DIVISION, MINISTRY OF MASS COMMUNICATIONS OR ANY OTHER SOURCE;
- CRITICIZED MASS COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER JESUINO'S PROPOSED PRESS LAW AS BEING MORE SEVERE THAN FASCIST CENSORSHIP AND CALLED FOR DEMONSTRATION TO REJECT LAW IN FRONT OF MINISTRY AUG. 8 AT 7:00 P.M.
- ACCUSED INTERSINDICAL OF FUNCTIONING IN AN AUTOCRATIC AND FASCIST MANNER;
- CALLED FOR RE-OPENING DISCUSSION AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON ISSUE OF JOURNALISTS' UNION MEMBERSHIP IN INTERSINDICAL;
- PROPOSED PRUGING FROM JOURNALISTS UNION ALL THOSE WHO WORKED FOR PIDE, LP, ANP AND OTHER FASCIST ORGANIZATIONS;
- OPTED FOR RE-HIRING OF ANTI-FASCIST JOURNALISTS DISMISSED FOR POLITICAL REASONS BEFORE AND AFTER APRIL 25;
- DEMANDED THAT EDITORS CONTACT AUTHORITIES TO RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEWS MATERIALS;
- SUGGESTED THAT JOURNALISTS REFUSE INCREASED HOURS OF WORK SCHEDULE AND RESOLVE ISSUE OF PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS.

COMMENT: JOURNALISTS' UNION ELECTIONS MAY SERVE TO UNITE SOCIALIST AND OTHER NON-COMMUNIST JOURNALISTS AGAINST COMMUNISTS ON ISSUES OF CENSORSHIP, FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND RAISE AGAIN THE SUBJECT OF UNITARY REPRESENTATION BY INTERSINDICAL. VARIOUS FACTIONS OF SOCIALIST AND NON-COMMUNIST LEFTIST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JOURNALISTS ON LIST B MAY BE DIVIDED AMONG THEMSELVES IN TERMS OF POLITICAL ORIENTATION AND THE DEGREE AND KIND OF CONTROL GOP SHOULD EXERCISE OVER PRESS, BUT THEY ARE NOW UNITED AGAINST ARBITRARY JUSTICE REVEALED BY JESUINO DOCUMENT, WHICH CONTAINS NO ALLOWANCES FOR JOURNALISTS AND NEWSPAPERS ACCUSED OF VIOLATING NEW PRESS LAW TO SEEK JUDICIAL HEARINGS. THEY ARE ALSO UNITED AGAINST EFFORTS TO REDUCE NEWSPAPERS AND INCREASE THEIR WORK SCHEDULE. LIST A JOURNALISTS MADE

NO MENTION OF JESUINO'S PRESS LAW IN THEIR COMMUNIQUE
PUBLISHED IN DP, AUG. 7 STATING ONLY GENERAL SUPPORT FOR A
PRESS LAW AND RESTRUCTURING OF NEWSPAPERS.
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